Robin Hood

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ALL NEW ADVENTURES

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Robin Hood

THE MEN OF SHERWOOD FOREST ARE NOT ALWAYS GRIM AND SERIOUS. THERE IS MUCH LAUGHTER IN THEIR LIFE—EVEN THOUGH THEY WALK STEP BY STEP WITH DANGER! FOR SOMETIMES THEY COME OUT OF THEIR FOREST DEPTHS TO MINGLE WITH OTHER PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE COUNTRY FAIRS COME TO TOWNS LIKE NOTTINGHAM AND LINCOLN... BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THESE LITTLE TRIPS BOOMERANG. THEN THE FOREST ROVERS AND THEIR DARING LEADER, ***ROBIN HOOD*** DISCOVER THEY HAVE STEPPED INTO A— **PITFALL FOR THE MERRY MEN!**

ON A FINE MAY MORNING, ROBIN TOSSES HIS TRUSTY YEW BOW HIGH IN THE AIR...

THE FAIR IS ON AT NOTTINGHAM! MARIAN, I'VE A MIND TO TEST MY SKILL AGAINST SUCH ARCHERS AS RED DAVID AND JOHN O'THE MERE!
TO TEST YOUR LUCK AGAINST A HANGMAN'S NOOSE, YOU MEAN!

OTHERS ARE AS KEEN ON THE IDEA AS IS ROBIN HOOD. ***LITTLE JOHN*** POLISHES HIS QUARTERSTAFF! ***WILL SCARLET*** FLEXES HIS GREAT MUSCLES.

THEY GET OFF DOWN THE ROAD, SINGING IN THEIR JOY. WHAT DO THEY CARE THAT JOHN MURDACH OR SIR GUI OF GLAMORE OFFERS GOLD FOR THEIR HEADS?

♫ FOR 'TIS GOOD TO BE ALIVE ON A MERRY MORN IN MAY... ♫

JUGGLERS AND MOUNTEBANKS COME TO THE FAIR...

FARMERS BRING THEIR BEST PRODUCE. TRADESMEN SHOW OFF THEIR WARES. EVERYONE IS IN A MERRY MOOD...

WHEN THE WRESTLING BEGINS, HOARSE CHEERS FILL THE AIR...

ME, I'M THE ***BIG STONE-CRUSHER!*** COME CLOSER SO I CAN SNAP YOU IN TWO!

BIG TALK!

WILL SCARLET LEAPS IN, DARTS TO ONE SIDE — AND CLOSES WITH HIS MAN!

WE'LL SEE ***WHO*** DOES WHAT SNAPPING! ONE--TWO..!

THREE! AND OVER YOU GO!

THE PRIZEWINNING BELT AND PURSE OF GOLD IS WON BY WILL SCARLET!

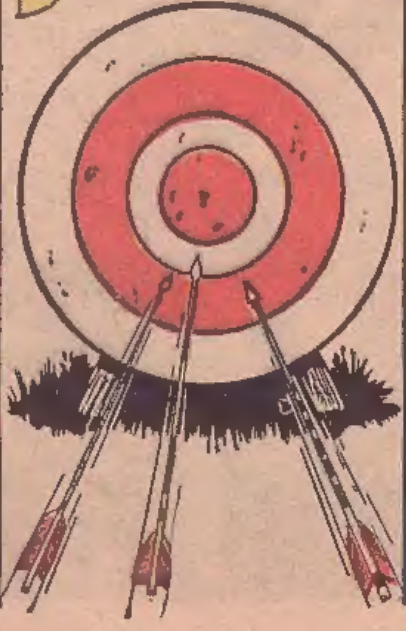
YOU'RE NEXT, LITTLE JOHN!

QUARTERSTAFF WORK IS HIGHLY POPULAR IN MERRY ENGLAND. EVERY COUNTY HAS ITS CHAMPION--AND ALL OF THEM SEEM TO BE GATHERED AT THE NOTTINGHAM FAIR!

NEITHER ROBIN HOOD NOR LITTLE JOHN SEE THE FIVE MEN WHO MOVE AWAY FROM THE QUARTERSTAFF CIRCLES AS LITTLE JOHN WINS HIS PRIZE!

AS THE ARCHERY CONTEST GETS UNDER WAY, THREE MEN SOON BECOME THE FOCUS OF ALL EYES--ROBIN HOOD--RED DAVID--JOHN O'THE MERE...

ARROW AFTER ARROW FLIES THROUGH THE AIR. NEVER BEFORE HAS SUCH SHOOTING BEEN SEEN!



A WHISPER GROWS IN THE CROWD. HEADS TURN AND EYES GROW SHARP FOR NONE WHERE ROBERT MURDACH'S MEN MAY BE LURKING...

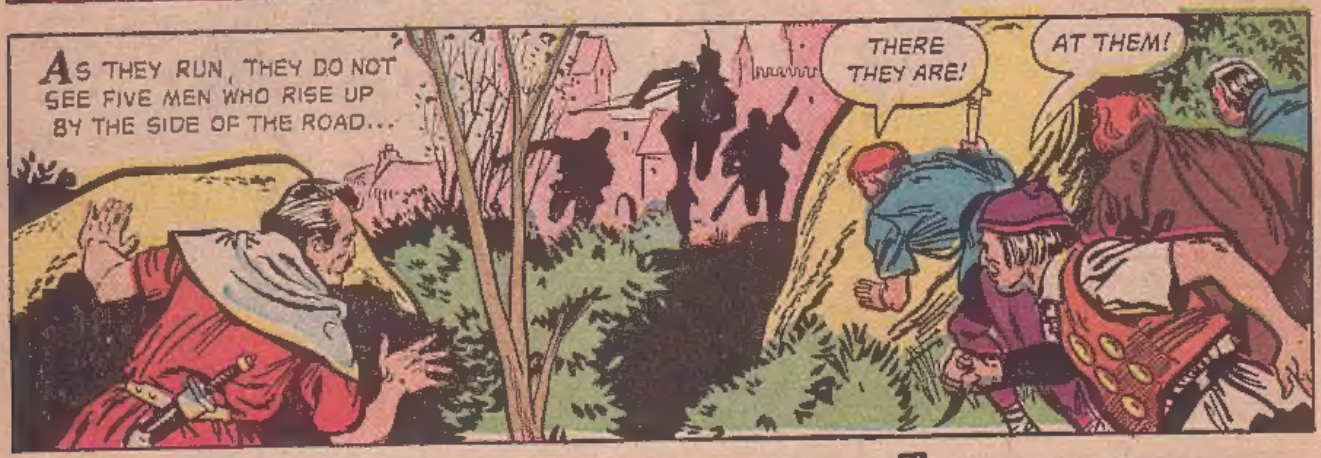
ONLY ONE MAN IN ALL ENGLAND CAN MATCH SHOTS WITH RED DAVID!
ROBIN HOOD ALONE CAN OUTSHOOT JOHN O'THE MERE! ROBIN HOOD--FOR WHOM ROBERT MURDACH OFFERS A BIG REWARD!

AMONG THE POOR PEOPLE, ROBIN HOOD HAS MANY FRIENDS. AS HE IS ANNOUNCED THE WINNER, THEY SURGE PROTECTINGLY AROUND HIM...

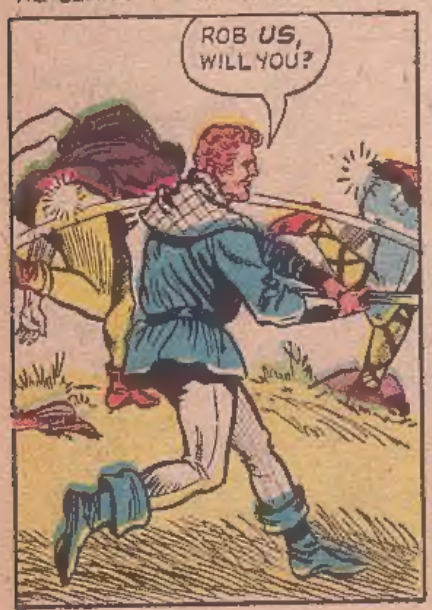
A KNOWN SPY OF ROBERT MURDACH IS JOSTLED SIDEWAYS INTO A WATERING TROUGH...

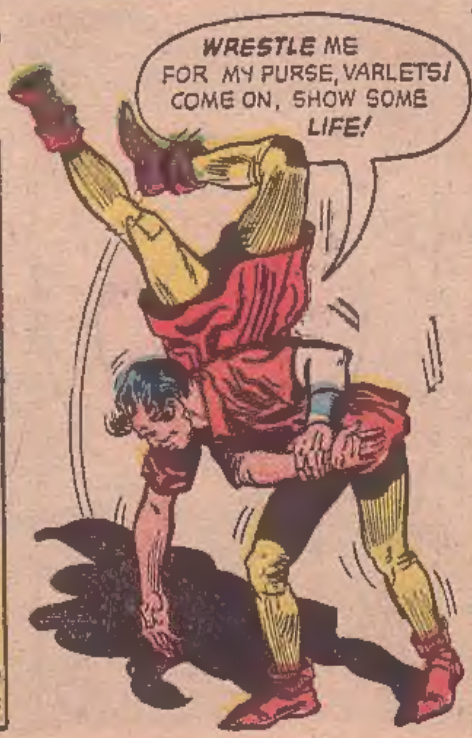
IN THE CONFUSION, THE MERRY MEN LEAVE THE FAIR AT HIGH SPEED!

AS THEY RUN, THEY DO NOT SEE FIVE MEN WHO RISE UP BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD...



SOME MEN NEVER LEARN! THOUGH THEIR EYES HAVE SEEN WHAT THESE MEN CAN DO, THEY MUST RE-LEARN IT-- THE HARD WAY!





THEY FLEE, WITH ROBIN HOOD SENDING REMINDERS OF THEIR FAILURE AFTER THEM...

A LITTLE FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD, THE FIVE MEET WITH ROBERT MURDACH AND HIS MEN RETURNING FROM A "TAXING" TOUR. THEY ARE RECOGNIZED FOR WHAT THEY ARE...

I OUGHT TO HANG YOU OUT OF HAND! HOWEVER, I'VE A BETTER IDEA! I'VE JUST HELPED MYSELF TO THE PEOPLE'S PIGS AND CATTLE! NOW I'LL HELP MYSELF TO THEIR POPULAR IDOL!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO PUT SOME SPIES IN ROBIN HOOD'S CAMP. YOU WILL BE MY SPIES. FAIL- AND YOUR FATE WILL YET OVERTAKE YOU. SUCCEED- AND YOU WILL BE PARDONED AND PAID GOLD. WHEN ROBIN HOOD PLANS A DEED— INFORM ME! I'LL BE THERE TO CAPTURE HIM, AND REWARD YOU!

AT NIGHTFALL, THE FIVE ROBBERS ARE DEEP IN SHERWOOD FOREST...

AS THE DAYS PASS, THE FIVE ROBBERS DISCOVER THAT ROBIN HOOD IS NOT THE EVIL MAN ROBERT MURDACH MAKES HIM OUT TO BE...

WHEN ROBERT MURDACH TAXED YOUR SHOP, HE LEFT YOU WITHOUT MONEY TO BUY NEW IRON TO CONDUCT YOUR ARMORER'S TRADE. TAKE THIS SILVER FOR THE PURPOSE!
BLESS YOU, ROBIN HOOD!

A FINE YEW BOW AND NEW ARROWS FOR YOUR MAN, DAME! WITHOUT THE PIGS THAT ROBERT MURDACH TOOK FOR WHAT HE CALLS "TAXES," HE'LL NEED THIS TO HUNT FOR FOOD!

ON THE WAY BACK TO CAMP, DAY AFTER DAY, FROM THESE GOOD DEEDS OF MONEY, A STRANGE CHANGE COMES OVER THE FIVE MEN...

AND SO, ONE NIGHT...

THUS IT IS THAT THE FIVE MEN COME BEFORE ROBERT MURDACH ONCE AGAIN...

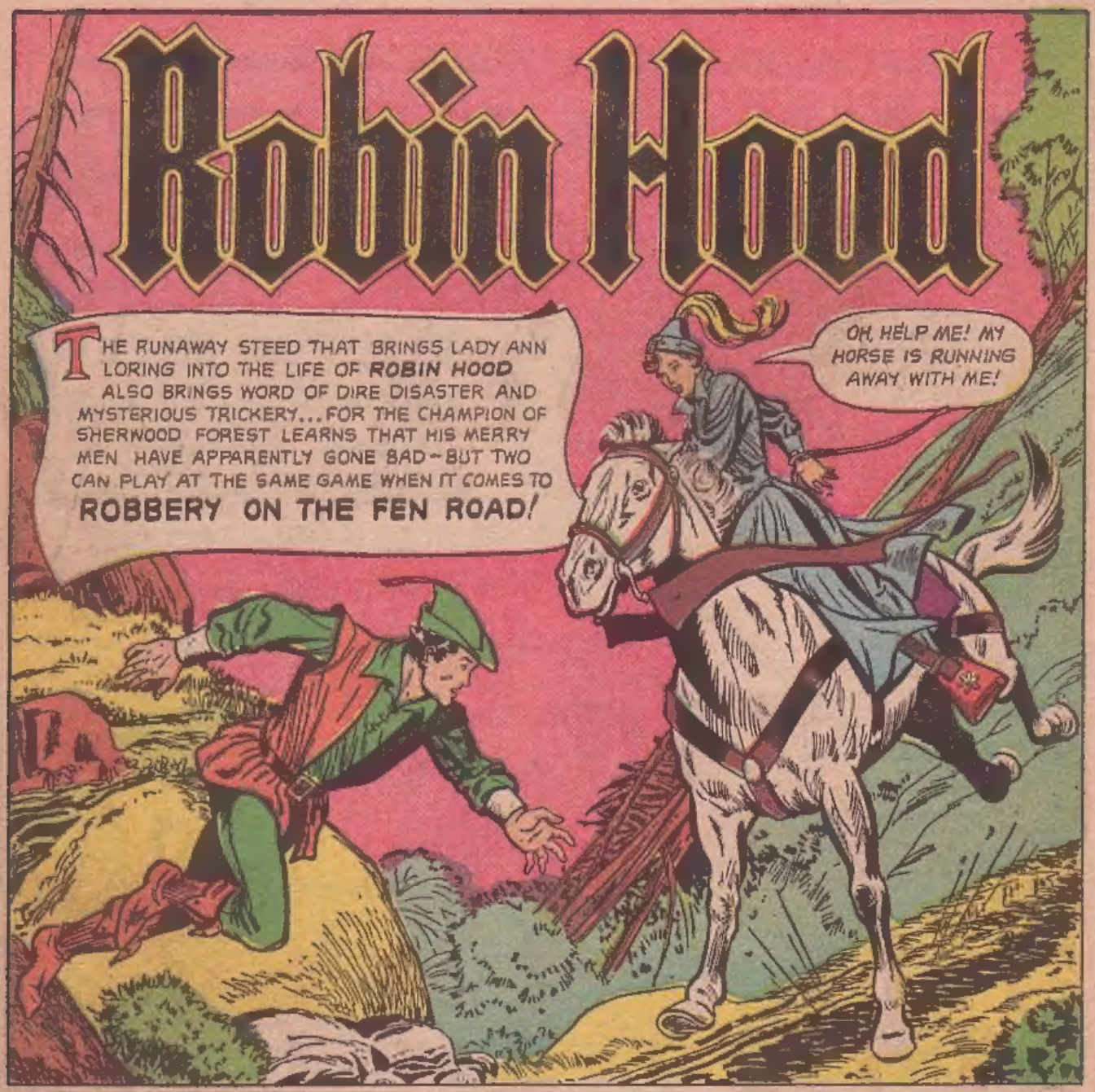
THE FIVE MEN ARE "REWARDED" WITH HARD BLOWS AND DRIVEN FROM THE CASTLE...

ROBERT MURDACH WAITS ON THE NORTHUMBERLAND ROAD A LONG TIME. HE IS LASHED BY A DRIVING RAIN, BUT ROBIN HOOD NEVER COMES...

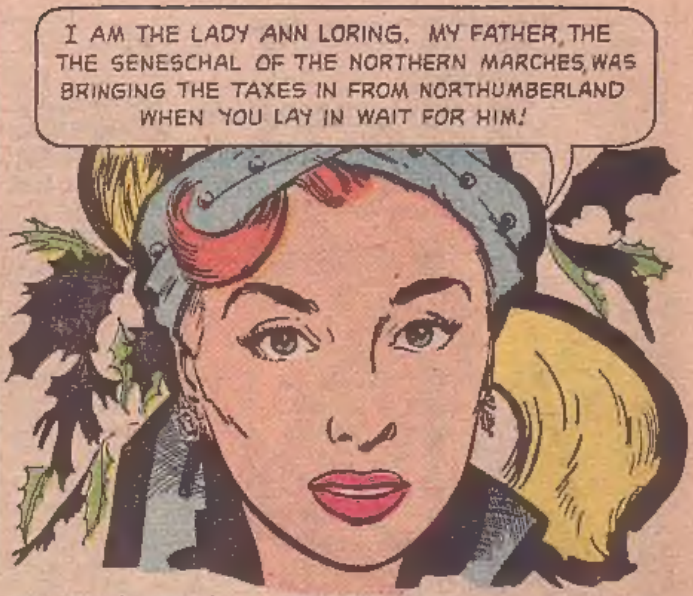
ROBERT MURDACH HAS YET TO LEARN THE WORST. WHILE HE WAITS FOR ROBIN HOOD, THE LATTER LEADS HIS MEN TO THE NOTTINGHAM CORRALS, AND TAKES BACK THE CATTLE AND PIGS ROBERT MURDACH STOLE FROM THE PEOPLE...

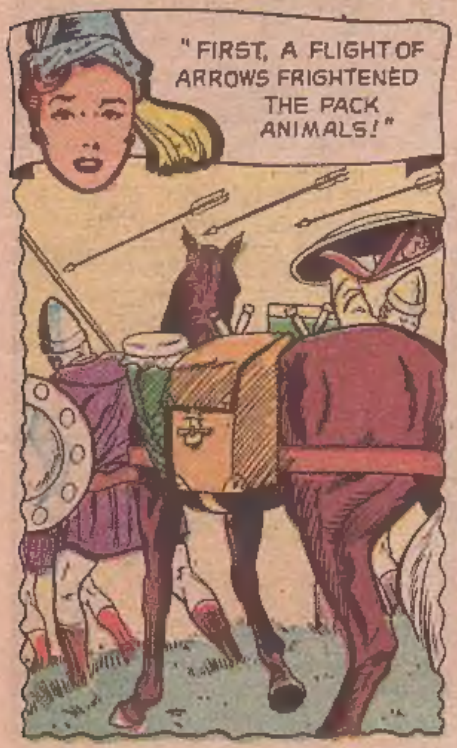
WE'LL HIDE THE ANIMALS IN SHERWOOD FOREST. IN THAT WAY, THE PEOPLE WHO OWN THEM CAN USE THEM WITHOUT FEAR OF HAVING THEM STOLEN AGAIN FROM THEM!
THE END

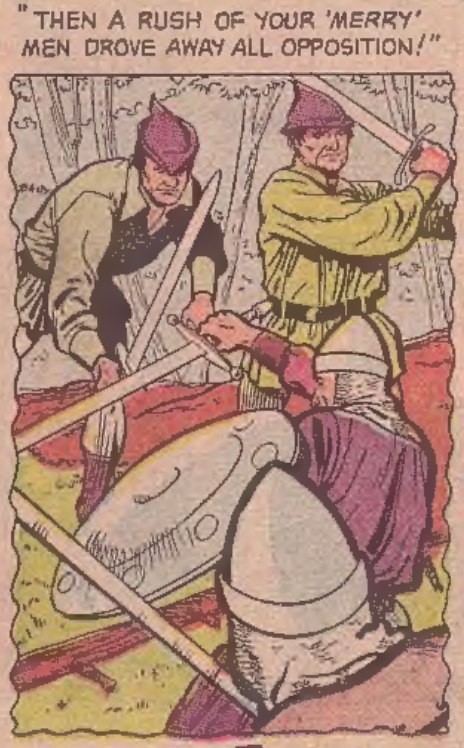
Robin Hood


THE RUNAWAY STEED THAT BRINGS LADY ANN LORING INTO THE LIFE OF ROBIN HOOD ALSO BRINGS WORD OF DIRE DISASTER AND MYSTERIOUS TRICKERY...FOR THE CHAMPION OF SHERWOOD FOREST LEARNS THAT HIS MERRY MEN HAVE APPARENTLY GONE BAD—BUT TWO CAN PLAY AT THE SAME GAME WHEN IT COMES TO ROBBERY ON THE FEN ROAD!
OH, HELP ME! MY HORSE IS RUNNING AWAY WITH ME!

THE DRUMMING HOOFBEATS OF THE WILDLY GALLOPING HORSE ARE SLOWED AS ROBIN HURLS HIMSELF UPWARD—


I AM THE LADY ANN LORING. MY FATHER, THE THE SENESCHAL OF THE NORTHERN MARCHES, WAS BRINGING THE TAXES IN FROM NORTHUMBERLAND WHEN YOU LAY IN WAIT FOR HIM!





BELIEVE ME, LADY ANN—YOUR EYES PLAY YOU TRICKS! IT WAS NOT ROBIN HOOD WHO ROBBED YOU, BUT SOMEONE PRETENDING TO BE HIM. TELL ME—DO YOU KNOW ME NOW?

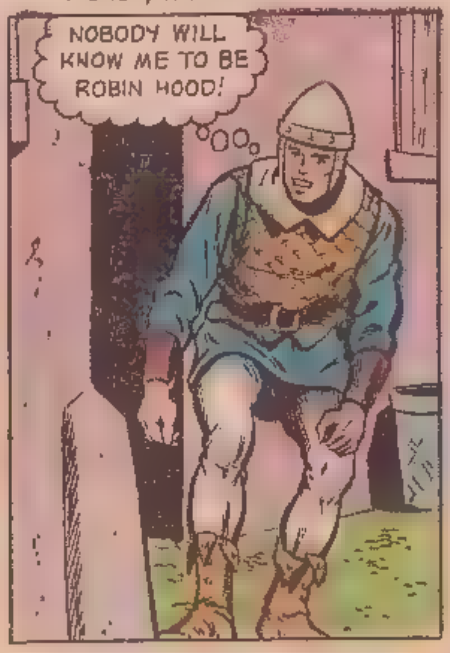
FOR A MOMENT LADY ANN STARES BLINDLY. THEN SHE GIVES A LITTLE CRY—

SIR ROBERT—EARL OF HUNTINGDON! BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE ON THE CRUSADES!
KING RICHARD SENT ME HOME TO ENGLAND TO GUARD HIS INTERESTS AND PROTECT HIS PEOPLE! NOW IT BEGINS TO LOOK AS IF I HAVE TO PROTECT THEM FROM MY DOUBLE!

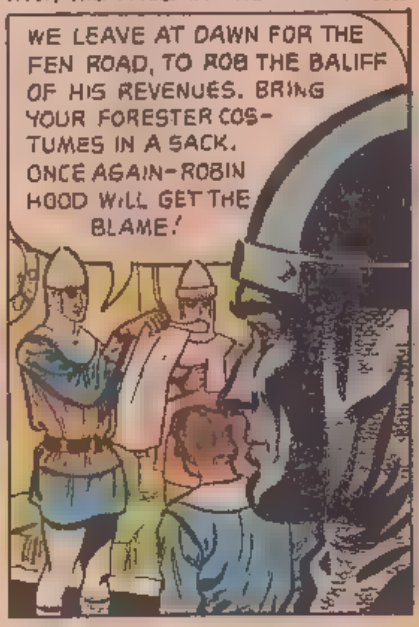
THAT NIGHT AS THE CAMPFIRES GLOW IN SHERWOOD FOREST—
THE GOLD FROM THE NORTHERN MARCHES IS GOLD THAT BELONGS TO KING RICHARD. IT HAS BEEN STOLEN!
IF THAT GOLD WERE DELIVERED SAFELY TO PRINCE JOHN, THE USURPER, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE KEPT FOR THE KING. BY ALLOWING IT TO BE STOLEN—PERHAPS BY HIS HENCHMAN, ROBERT MURDACH—PRINCE JOHN MAY KEEP IT FOR HIS OWN! TO REMAIN INNOCENT BEFORE THE WORLD, HE BLAMES US!
HE'LL NOT SLANDER THE MERRY MEN, WHO ARE HONEST! ALONE, I'LL GO INTO NOTTINGHAM —AND DISCOVER IF ROBERT MURDACH IS TRULY BEHIND THIS SCHEME!
NEXT DAY IN THE TOWN OF NOTTINGHAM, A DUSTY MILLER GAPES AT A PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW—
AT A LOCAL TAVERN, THE MILLER STANDS TREAT TO AN OFFICER OF ROBERT MURDACH'S OWN GUARD—
EAT, GOOD FRIEND. I HAVE SILVER TO PAY FOR THE FARE!
WARMED AND CHEERED BY GOOD FOOD AND FLATTERY, THE SOLDIER IS SOON BRAGGING...
...DRESSED UP AS ROBIN HOOD! HA! HA! TEN CHESTS OF GOLD WE TOOK. HA! HA!
CLEVER! HA! HA! VERY CLEVER!
CONVINCED BY NOW THAT THEY ARE GREAT FRIENDS, THE SOLDIER AND THE MILLER MOVE OUT INTO THE NIGHT...
WE'LL GO OUT AGAIN SOON, BELIEVE ME. ROBERT MURDACH HAS DISCOVERED A SAFE AND SOUND WAY TO ROB!

SUDDENLY—A SCUFFLE IN THE DARKNESS, THE THUD OF FIST ON CHIN—

A DIFFERENT SOLDIER GOES SWAGGERING DOWN THE STREET. THE MILLER, OF COURSE, HAS DISAPPEARED...!

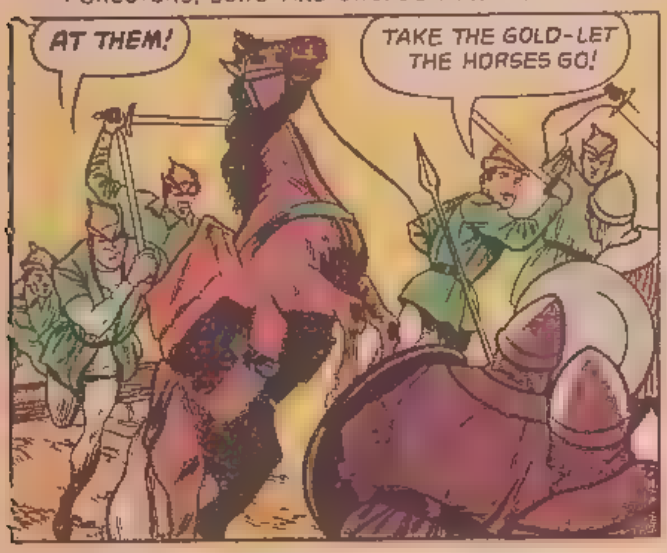


TOWARD MORNING, WHEN ORDERS COME TO THE GUARDROOM, NO ONE NOTICES THAT ONE MAN REMAINS WITH HIS FACE IN THE SHADOWS...

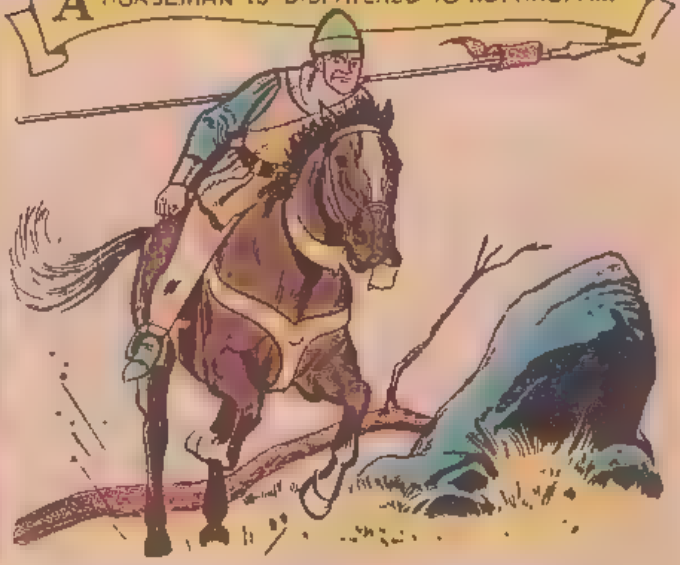

WE LEAVE AT DAWN FOR THE FEN ROAD, TO ROB THE BALIFF OF HIS REVENUES. BRING YOUR FORESTER COSTUMES IN A SACK. ONCE AGAIN—ROBIN HOOD WILL GET THE BLAME!

ROBIN HOOD MAY GET THE BLAME, BUT ROBERT MURDACH WILL NOT GET THE GOLD! I'LL JUST HAVE TIME TO RETURN TO SHERWOOD FOREST AND SPREAD THE ALARM!

FROM THE SURROUNDING BUSHES LEAP GREEN-CLAD FORESTERS, BOWS AND SWORDS IN HAND—

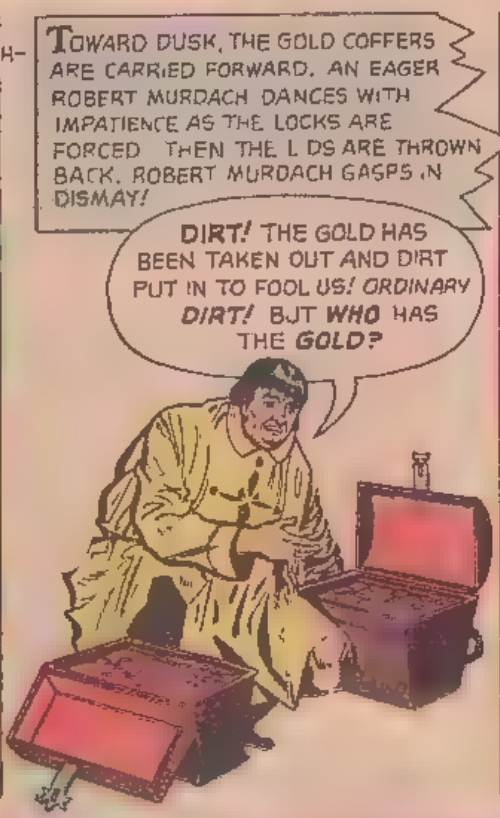


A HORSEMAN IS DISPATCHED TO NOTTINGHAM—

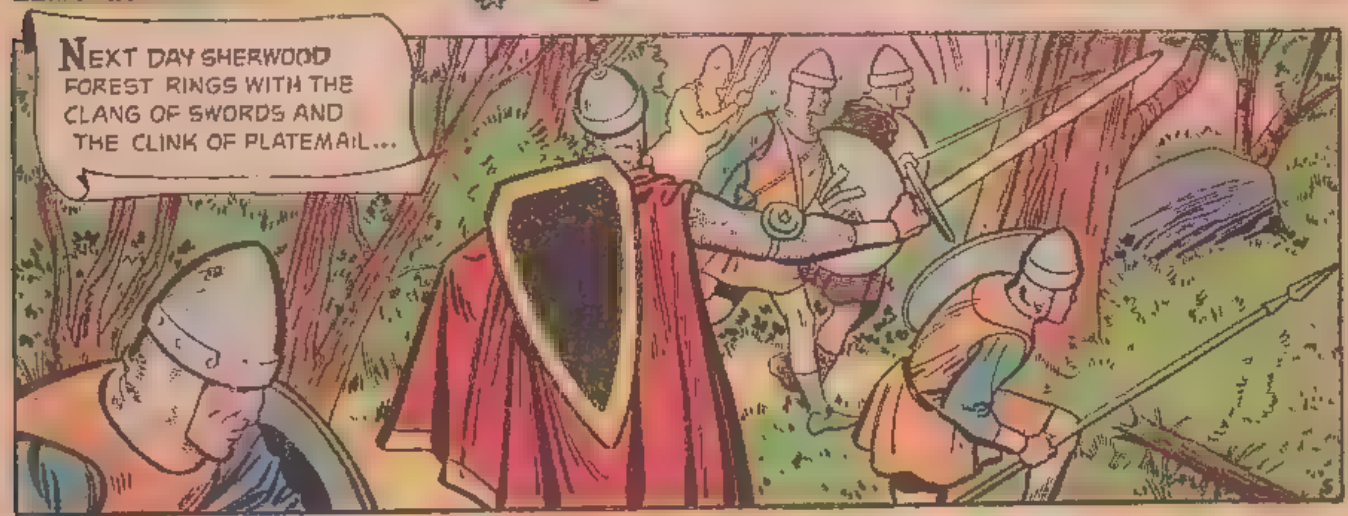


AT THE CASTLE, HE THROWS HIMSELF TO HIS KNEES BEFORE ROBERT MURDACH—

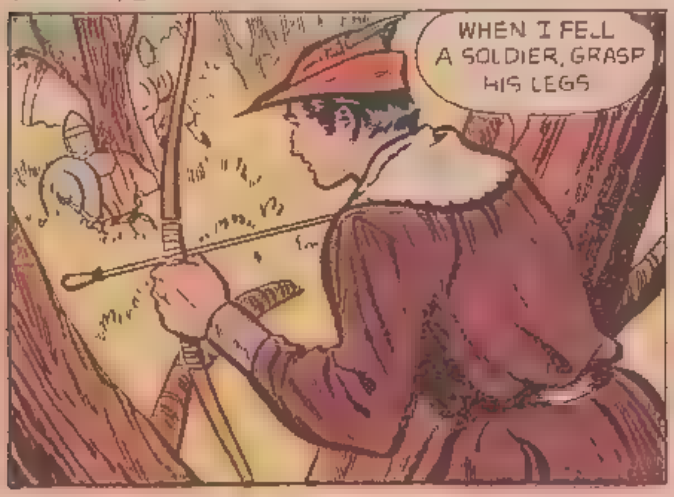
TOWARD DUSK, THE GOLD COFFERS ARE CARRIED FORWARD. AN EAGER ROBERT MURDACH DANCES WITH IMPATIENCE AS THE LOCKS ARE FORCED. THEN THE LIDS ARE THROWN BACK. ROBERT MURDACH GASPS IN DISMAY!

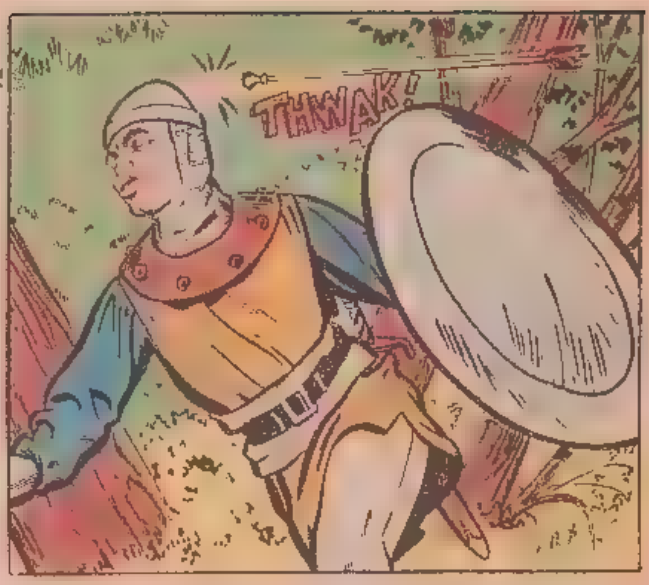


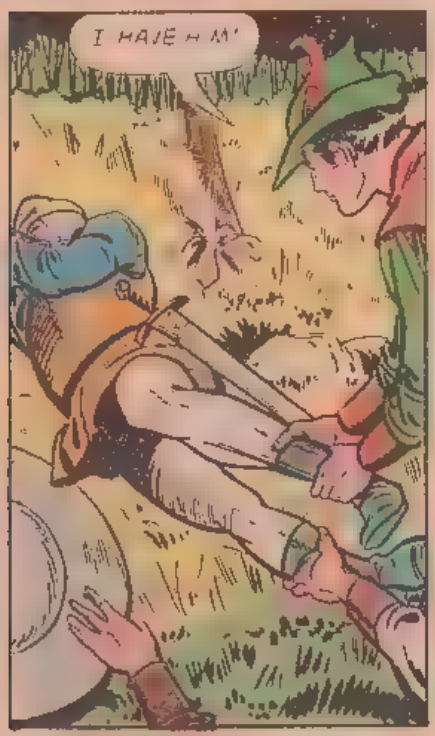
ROBIN HOOD! ONLY HE WOULD HAVE THE NERVE, THE SHEER EFFRONTERY TO PULL SUCH A TRICK ON ME! ORDER OUT THE GUARD! MARCH MY SOLDIERS INTO SHERWOOD FOREST! CAPTURE ROBIN HOOD ALIVE!



TO MEET THE INVADERS, THE MERRY MEN COME SILENT AS THE SHADOWS THAT MOVE WITH THEM. AT ROBIN HOOD'S COMMAND, ***BLUNT*** ARROWS ARE FITTED TO TAUT BOWSTRINGS!



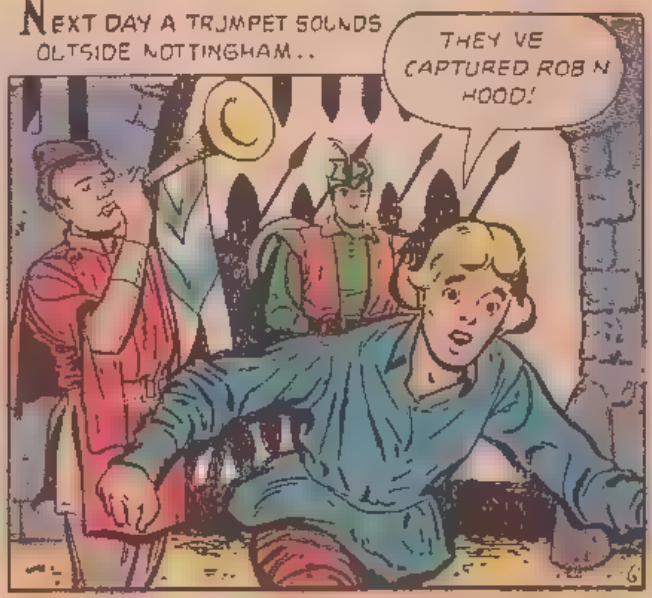




LITTLE JOHN'S QUARTERSTAFF STRIKES SWIFTLY, SILENTLY!

BY DUSK, MORE THAN HALF THE MARCHING SOLDIERS ARE MERRY MEN, IN DISGUISE. AFTER THAT, THE REST IS EASY-

NEXT DAY A TRUMPET SOUNDS OUTSIDE NOTTINGHAM..



ROBERT MURDACH GLOATS! AT LAST, THE MASTER OF SHERWOOD FOREST IS HIS PRISONER!
TO THE CELLS WITH HIM AND THOSE OF HIS MEN YOU'VE CAPTURED! THEY'LL ALL HANG IN THE MORNING!
HOWEVER- ONCE OUT OF SIGHT OF THE EVIL ROBERT MURDACH- A KNIFE LASHES ROBIN'S BONDS!
THE SECRET STRONGROOM THAT CONTAINS ALL THE STOLEN GOLD IS THROWN OPEN-
ALL THIS GOLD BELONGS TO GOOD KING RICHARD AND THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND. WELL, THEY'LL HAVE IT!
WE HAD TO GAIN ADMITTANCE TO THE CASTLE IN ORDER TO LAY OUR HANDS ON THESE THINGS. ROBERT MURDACH IS SO PLEASED WITH HAVING 'CAPTURED" ME, HE WON'T SUSPECT A THING-UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE!
A LONG FILE OF MEN DEPART FROM THE CASTLE. WITH THEM GO THE ILL-GOTTEN GOODS ROBERT MURDACH HAS AMASSED THROUGH TH EVERY-
BY TOMORROW'S DAWN, ALL THIS WILL BE SAFELY STORED AWAY IN SHERWOOD FOREST. WHEN KING RICHARD RETURNS, IT WILL BE GIVEN TO HIM!
YOU FAILED TO LOOK CLOSELY AT THE FACES OF YOUR "SOLDIERS," GOOD SIR. IF YOU HAD, YOU'D HAVE RECOGNIZED THEM AS MY MERRY MEN IN DISGUISE. NOW YOU ARE MY PRISONER!
THAT ROBIN HOOD! ALWAYS HE FINDS A WAY TO WIN- EVEN WHEN THE ODDS FAVOR ME!
THE END

SIR GALANT of the Round Table

THE VIKINGS CAME OUT OF [illegible] MA THULE [illegible] THEIR HORNED HELMETS, ON BOARD THEIR LONG-SHIPS, HARRYING THE COASTS OF ENGLAND. FIERCE BERSERKERS, THEY FOUGHT WITH THE VIGOR OF MADDENED LIONS. AND WHEN THEY TRAPPED KING ARTHUR AND HIS KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE IN A RING OF FIRE, ONLY **SIR GALANT** DARED TO FACE THE FLAMES! FOR YOUNG SIR GALANT WAS—

KING OF THE WOODCHOPPERS

I CAN NEVER REACH THE SIGNAL BEACON NOW—SO KING ARTHUR WILL NOT KNOW THAT THE VIKINGS HAVE COME RAIDING!

THE VIKINGS COME ASHORE IN THE MISTS OF EARLY MORNING—

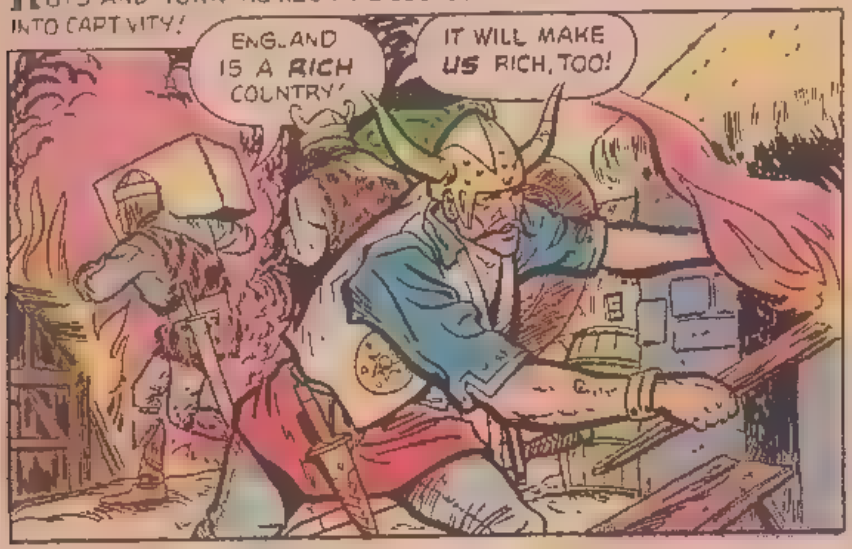
FOR THOR AND WODIN!

AND FREYA, TOO!

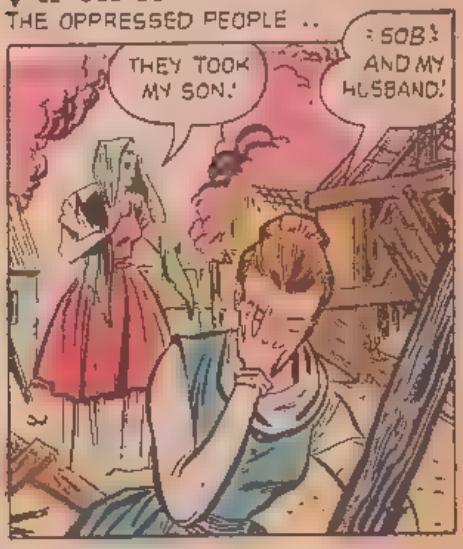
UNTRAINED VILLAGERS CANNOT STAND AGAINST THEIR LONGSWORDS!

RUN FOR COVER, LITTLE MEN! THE NORSEMEN WILL TAKE ALL YOU OWN!

HUTS AND TOWN HOMES ARE LOOTED! MEN AND WOMEN ARE TAKEN INTO CAPTIVITY!

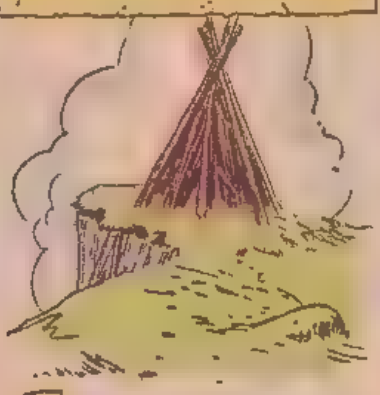


VILLAGES BURN AMID THE GROANS OF THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE ..

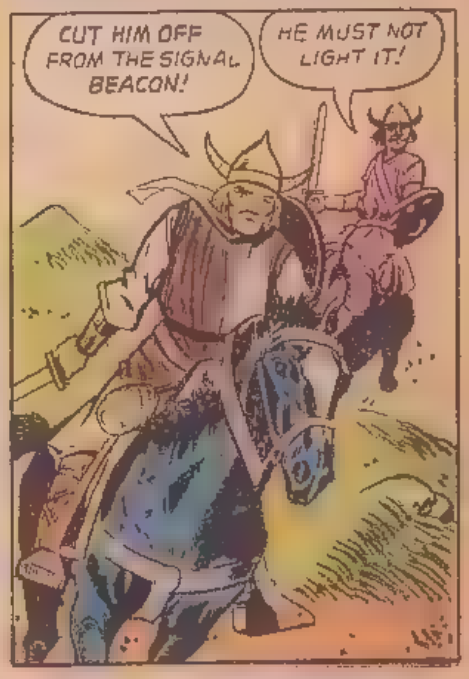


NOT FAR AWAY ON AN OLD ROMAN ROAD THAT SKIRTS THE SAXON SHORE—

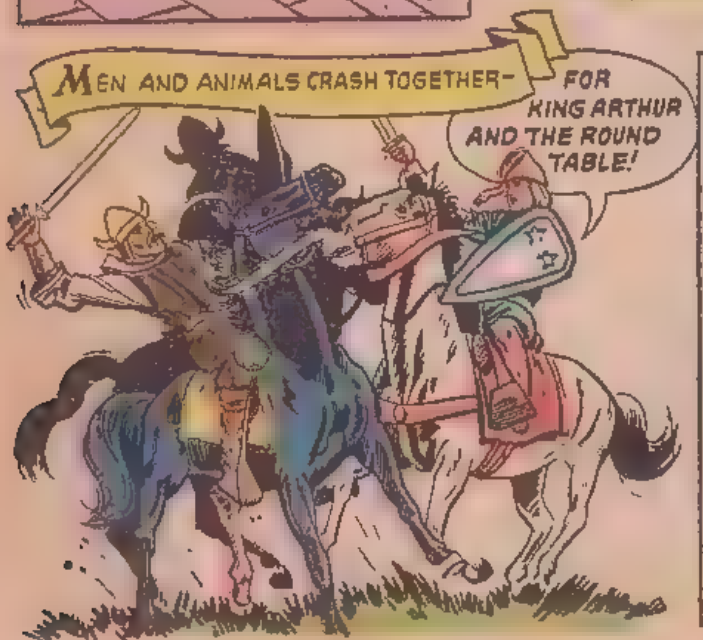
FOR CENTURIES, EVER SINCE THE ROMANS GUARDED THE COAST AGAINST SAXON INROADS, GREAT PILES OF WOOD HAVE BEEN RAISED AT STRATEGIC POINTS ALONG THE EASTERN COASTLINE. ONCE ONE IS SET ON FIRE, IT WILL BE SEEN BY OTHER WATCHERS, AND SOON ALL THE BEACONS WILL BE BLAZING A WARNING...

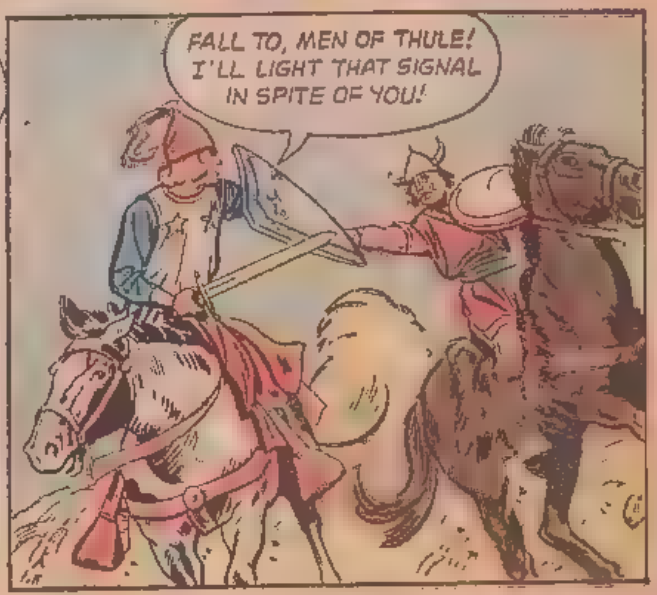


BUT THE GALLOPING HORSEMAN IS SEEN! EAGER VIKINGS RACE TO MEET HIM ...!



MEN AND ANIMALS CRASH TOGETHER—





POWERFUL ARMS LOCK ABOUT THE YOUNG KNIGHT—
I HAVE HIM!
A SWORD CLANGS ON HIS HELMET. IN A MOMENT HE IS STRETCHED UNCONSCIOUS ON THE GROUND...
HE'LL SET FIRE TO NO SIGNAL BEACON NOW!
A E! LET'S GET BACK TO THE LOOT NG!
AFTER THE VIKINGS DEPART, SMALL MEN IN THE SKIN OF BEASTS CREEP OUT OF THE FORESTS THAT BORDER THE EDGE OF THE SEA...
HE TRIED TO HELP US— NOW WE LL HELP HIM!
WHEN HE OPENS HIS EYES, AN OLD MAN IS WALKING TOWARD HIM...
HERE IS GOOD BROTH FOR YOU, SIR KNIGHT.
WHY— 'I M .N A WOOD-CHOPPERS' CAMP...
AIE WE CHOP THE WOOD FOR THE MANOR HOUSE AND CASTLE F REPLACES, AND FOR THE SIGNAL BEACONS. WE ARE POOR BUT PROUD, AND THE WAY OF THE FOREST IS OUR WAY.
WE POOR PEOPLE ARE USED TO INVAS ONS. MANY YEARS AGO IT WAS THE CELTS. THEN CAME THE ROMAN LEG ONS. ALL OF THEM LOOT AND BURN AND SLAY. IT IS ALMOST MORE THAN ONE CAN STAND, WERE IT NOT FOR THE FACT THAT FROM ALL THESE MIXTURES OF INVADING PEOPLE A GREAT NATION WILL RISE UP!
"QUEEN BOED CA FOUGHT THE ROMANS, BUT THE LEG ONS WERE TOO MUCH FOR HER CHARIOTS..."
LUD OF LUNDUN— AID OUR SWORDS!

"SOMETIMES THE **SAXONS** RAIDED US, BUT THE ROMANS—WHO STAYED IN ENGLAND FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS—ALWAYS DROVE THEM OFF..."

"THEN ROME FELL IN 410, AND THE SAXONS CAME TO STAY. SIX HUNDRED YEARS LATERS, **NORMAN THE CONQUEROR** CAME..."

UP SHIELDS! HOLD FIRM, MEN!

NOW THE **VIKINGS** COME FOR OUR WEALTH! IN THE FUTURE OTHER MEN WILL TRY AND INVADE US, TOO. MEN WHO WILL BE NAMED—NAPOLEON AND HITLER!

TRULY, YOU ARE A WISE OLD MAN, AND A **SEER!**

BUT IF I'M GOING TO WARN KING ARTHUR ABOUT THE VIKINGS, I'LL HAVE TO BE GOING. HOW I'LL DO IT WITHOUT A HORSE, THOUGH, IS BEYOND ME!

THE WOODCHOPPERS TAKE SIR GALANT INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE FOREST. HERE THEIR AXES FLASH MERRILY AS THEY CHOP AWAY AT LEAN TREES...

A **RAFT!** THEY CUT DOWN TREES TO MAKE ME A RAFT!

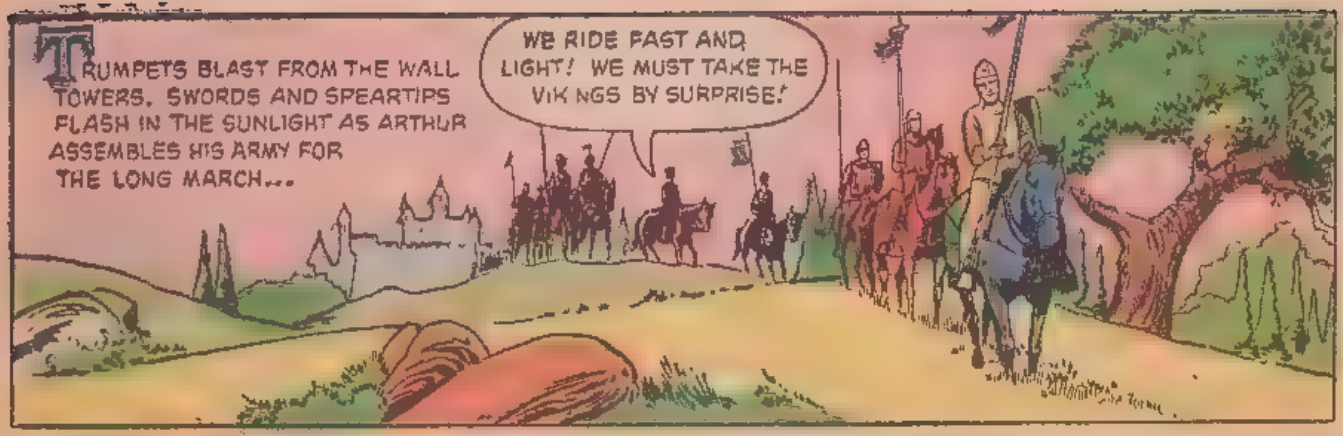
QUICK HANDS TIE THE LOGS WITH VINES AND SHOVE THE VESSEL OUT INTO THE RIVER...

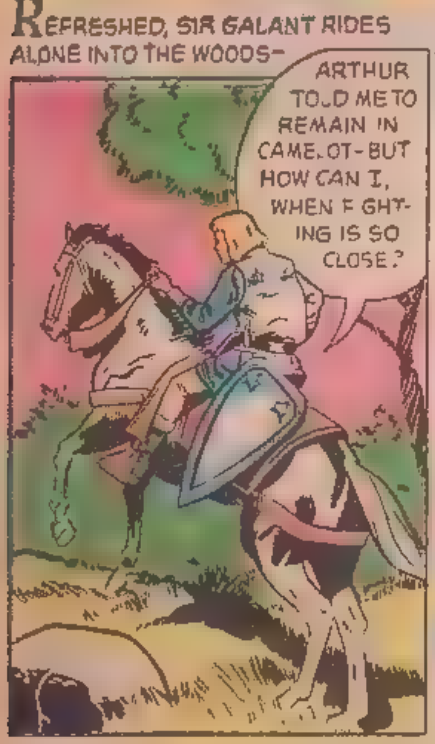
THE CURRENT AND HIS POLE WILL TAKE HIM TO CAMELOT.

HE'LL BE THERE BY DAWN ON THE MORROW!

NEXT DAY, A HAGGARD EXHAUSTED YOUNG KNIGHT IS CARRIED BEFORE HIS KING—

THE VIKINGS ARE IN ENGLAND, SIR—ROBBING AND LOOTING!


TRUMPETS BLAST FROM THE WALL TOWERS. SWORDS AND SPEARTIPS FLASH IN THE SUNLIGHT AS ARTHUR ASSEMBLES HIS ARMY FOR THE LONG MARCH...
WE RIDE FAST AND LIGHT! WE MUST TAKE THE VIKINGS BY SURPRISE!


REFRESHED, SIR GALANT RIDES ALONE INTO THE WOODS—
ARTHUR TOLD ME TO REMAIN IN CAMELOT—BUT HOW CAN I, WHEN FIGHTING IS SO CLOSE?

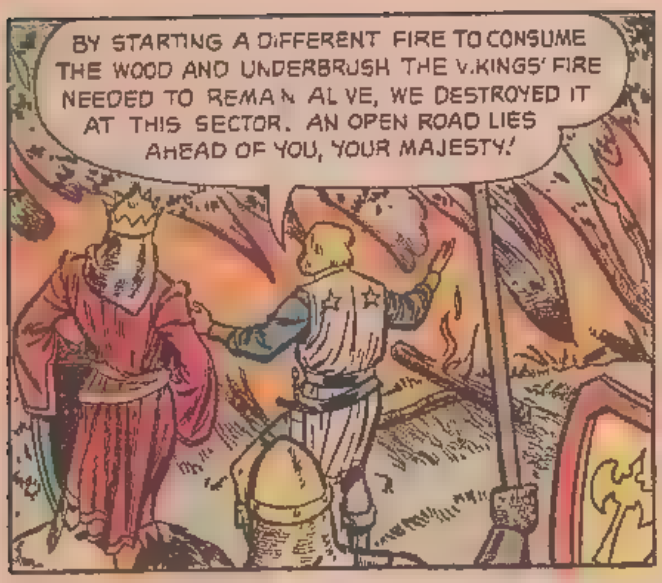
ALERT VIKING EYES SEE THE ADVANCING ENGLISH HOST. IN THE DEPTHS OF THE FOREST, HERE AND THERE, FLINT IS STRUCK ON STEEL—
NOT EVEN KING ARTHUR CAN FIGHT—FIRE!

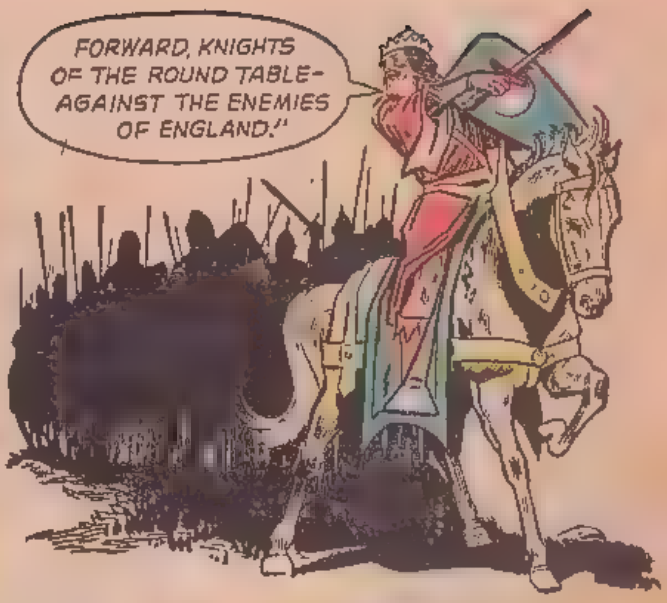
OTHER FIRES ARE BEING LIGHTED NOW IN A GREAT CIRCLE ALL AROUND ARTHUR AND HIS KNIGHTS!
SOON THEY WILL PERISH, AND ALL ENGLAND WILL BE OURS!

TRAPPED BY A CIRCLE OF FLAMES, ALL SEEMS LOST TO ARTHUR! THEN, SUDDENLY, A VOICE SHOUTS HARSHLY—
'WAY FOR SIR GALANT! MY FRIENDS, THE WOOD-CHOPPERS CAN SAVE YOU!

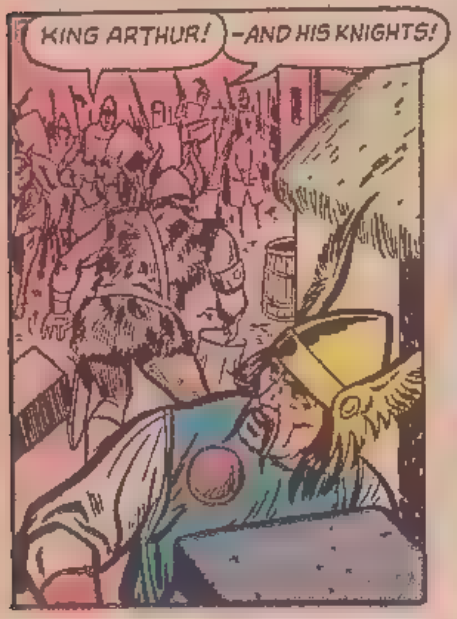
ONCE AGAIN, THE AXES FLASH AT SIR GALANT'S DIRECTION—
SWIFTLY, SWIFTLY—LEST WE BURN!

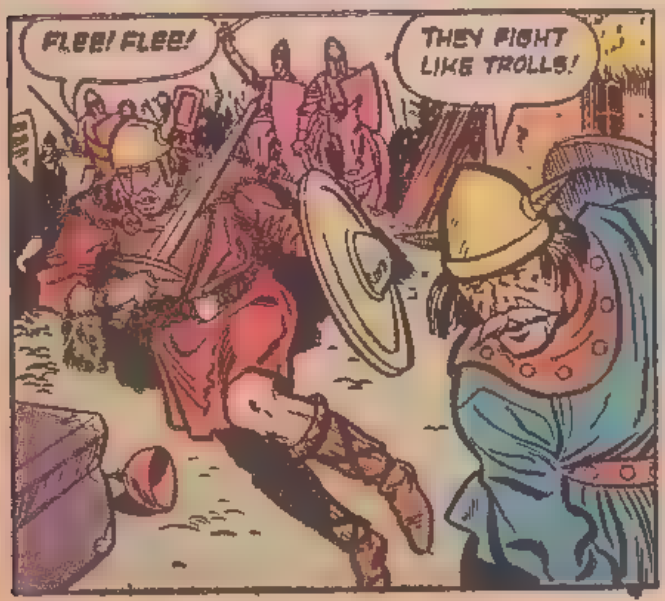
THE FELLED LOGS ARE PLACED CAREFULLY AND A COUNTERFIRE STARTED...
THE WIND IS BRISK SOON BOTH FIRES WILL MEET!

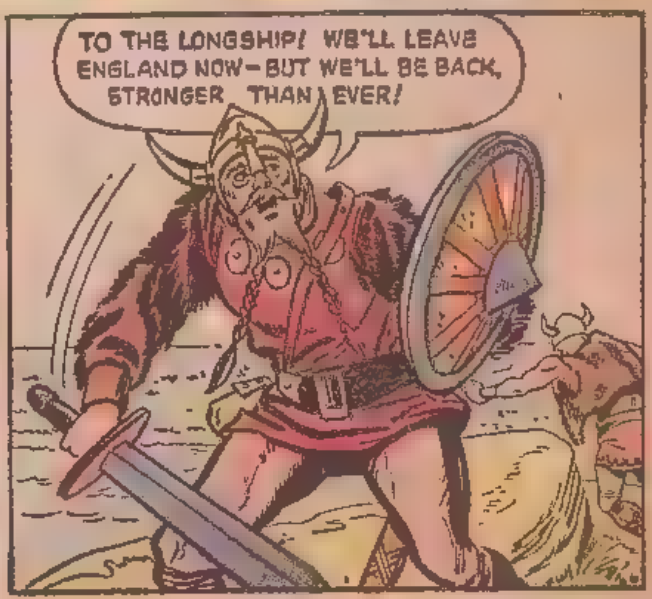

BY STARTING A DIFFERENT FIRE TO CONSUME THE WOOD AND UNDERBRUSH THE V.KINGS' FIRE NEEDED TO REMAIN ALIVE, WE DESTROYED IT AT THIS SECTOR. AN OPEN ROAD LIES AHEAD OF YOU, YOUR MAJESTY!



COMPLETELY UNAWARE THAT KING ARTHUR HAS ESCAPED THE RING OF FIRE, THE VIKING RAIDERS ARE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE...







MEANWHILE, SIR GALANT HAS FORCED AN OVERLAND MARCH TO THE SHORE...
THERE ARE SMALL BOATS IN THE BAY. WE'LL BORROW THEM!
LIKE A LIGHTNING BOLT FROM THE SKY, HE FALLS ON THE SHIPS' GUARDS!
LEAP, WOODCHOPPERS! TODAY YOU FIGHT FOR ENGLAND!
WHEN THE MAIN VIKING FORCE REACHES THE SEA, IT IS MET WITH A FLIGHT OF ARROWS!
THE WOODCHOPPERS HAVE CAPTURED OUR SHIPS!
THEY ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE R SHIPS AND OUR SWORDS! TO THE ATTACK!
WE YIELD! WE SHALL BE YOUR SLAVES!
NO! KING ARTHUR TAKES NO SLAVES! RETURN TO ULTIMA THULE WITH WORD THAT THE VIKINGS SHALL NEVER RAID ENGLAND AGAIN!
HAIL KING ARTHUR!
AND HAIL SIR GALANT!
AIE! HAIL SIR GALANT- KING OF THE WOODCHOPPERS!
HAIL THE SAVIOUR OF ENGLAND!
THE END

IN THE DAYS OF KNIGHTS

So many readers have been writing in to ask about medieval customs—and to compliment us on our instructive text about those days—that we are encouraged to continue. Customs, manners, clothes, food, weapons: all these and more you will learn about in *The Days of Knights*. . . .

THEIR DAILY WORK

The peasant who lived on castle or manor ground, the merchant, the travelling peddler or tinker: these were the ones who worked. The nobles of medieval days, the knights and the women of the upper classes did no work at all.

The working day was long and hard in those times. There was no five o'clock whistle, no vacation. Men worked and worked hard, at the whims of their lord. If he was easygoing, they were lucky. What kind of work did they do? First of all, they hunted and fished for food, because that was the most important thing in their lives. This could be considered relaxing—but if the hunter failed to get game or fish, the lord would not eat, and the peasant would be punished. Hunting and fishing, or anything else for that matter, is fun only if we do not have to do it! They used bows and arrows, crossbows, spears to hunt. Sometimes a blowgun was used.

Almost as important as the hunting and fishing was the gardening, for this too produced food. All manner of fruit, lettuce, beets, cabbage, cucumbers, were raised.

Then there were the builders, serfs or peasants who could use tools well. These built the necessary sheds and houses needed to keep the castle or manor house functioning properly. Saws, hammers and adzes were their most popular tools. They notched beams to fit together and hammered in crude iron nails. Most of the houses and castles were without glass windows in the early part of the Middle Ages. Only the rich could afford them. These carpenters also made the chests and beds and strong chairs that was the furniture of the times.

At harvest time the peasants gathered to bring in the produce from the lord's fields. Though many of them owned their own land, the serfs were obliged by feudal custom to spend so many days a week in helping their overlord. In return for this, he offered them protection.

Others who were often seen in the medieval scene were the tinkers and peddlers who went from town to town and castle to castle with their wares. Mummers and mimes—actors and singers—also went travelling about, performing little plays and folklore tales for the people in the castle or the village.

The large towns and cities were expanding, too. Trade between countries by ship and caravan were making men rich. The guilds were formed. Rivers too were busy as boats plied up and down them with goods for sale or barter.

Weights and measures and a way of figuring costs and expenses began to take on importance. The abacus provided a clumsy means of counting out profits or losses. The Crusades opened the eyes of Europe to the fact that Arabian numerals (the 1 to 10 system we use today) were a tremendous improvement over the old Roman numerals.

All in all, the Middle Ages was a time of transition in labor, as it passed through a period of slavery under Roman rule to serfdom.

THE HOLY GRAIL

Many stories have been written about the Holy Grail. It was the shining goal that blazed before King Arthur and his knights, of whom only Sir Galahad was deemed worthy to find the Grail. But— what was the Grail?

In simple terms, it was the cup out of which Christ and His apostles drank during the Last Supper. Deeply religious as were all people of the Middle Ages, the knights of the Round Table travelled far and wide to find it. Only Sir Galahad succeeded.

In 1910, in Antioch, a silver chalice was found in a dry well. There was a small cup inside it, of obvious antiquity. The silver chalice seemed made to hold the cup. Scholars and antiquarians said—hesitantly—this small cup was the Holy Grail! Most readers have seen the movie, *The Silver Chalice*, or read the best seller of that name. Now—at last—there seems to be actual proof to substantiate the story! Those knights of the Round Table knew what they were doing, after all!

THEIR GEOGRAPHY

Little was known of the world the people of the middle ages lived in. The old maps that have been found would be un-

recognizable by any modern schoolboy.

The map-makers of those old days did not know of North and South America, or Australia. China they knew about only after Marco Polo went there in the years 1269-1275. Silk caravans from China made their way to Bagdad and Damascus, of course, but information like this was not well known in Europe.

On some old maps, the Garden of Eden is shown! Also a tall building called the Tower of Babel! Strange animals and men, like the unicorn and centaur, were believed to have lived in the heart of Africa. Monsters and queer beings decorate these maps in places that would otherwise be marked unexplored.

One value these incorrect maps did have, however: they interested people. This stimulation for knowledge resulted, in 1492, in a man named Christopher Columbus sailing westward to find India. He found the new world, America, instead

THE MIDDLE AGES People speak of the middle ages and medieval times, but many do not know what they were, other than the fact that knights were bold and ladies fair, and jousting and chivalry were at their peak. Of recent years, the movies, with *Ivanhoe* and *Knights of the Round Table*, have popularized the period.

The Middle Ages generally are regarded as that period of time between 400 AD and 1500 AD. When Rome fell, in 410 AD the organization of cultures and the one world they created died away. The period from 400 to about 1000 AD were known as the "dark ages," when men lived in a kind of semi-civilized barbarism.

From 1000 AD until 1500 AD (which saw the birth of the Renaissance), the Crusades expanded the world for Europe, people entered into that period of knighthood and chivalry which we look upon as medieval times.

Thus the middle ages are comprised of two parts, the dark ages, and the age of knighthood. We hope this will give you a better insight into the time during which the tales of Robin Hood and Sir Galant are written.

THEIR CHURCHES It was during the age of knighthood that the great cathedrals of Europe were built. The cathedral of Notre Dame was erected 1163-1240, the cathedral of Reims between 1212 and 1300. Other great cathedrals were the churches at Ulm, built with the Bavarian gold of the rich merchants, in 1377, St. Mark's of Venice with its famous horses in gilded bronze and Gothic carvings, built in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the cathedrals of Wells in England and Bourges in France. The English church was constructed in the thirteenth century, the Bourges cathedral in the twelfth.

The architectural details of these cathedrals rank high in the world of art. Almost everyone has seen pictures of the famous Notre Dame cathedral with its great spire and twin towers. Its rose window and facade carvings in the interior are acknowledged masterpieces.

Ulm cathedral is noted for the sculptures which depict stories from the Bible with which we are all familiar, as well as the wooden statues of the saints which are set near shrines and choir stalls.

St. Mark's of Venice is Byzantine in detail, with Arabian alabaster, porphyry pillars from Egypt, Greek marbles, as part of its construction. Its several domes give it an oriental appearance. Golden mosaics decorate its inner walls.

Wells cathedral is fitted with statues of well-known men in the history of the church and of England. Its stained glass windows and rib-vaulted ceilings, its inverted arches and Gothic traceries give it an ethereal look despite the heavy stone of which it is constructed.

The cathedral at Bourges is credited with having the finest stained-glass windows in the world. Ancient relics and beautiful statues give it a magnificence that takes the breath away.

Many people of today ask: how did the people of five to eight hundred years ago build such wonderful edifices?

In the Middle Ages, the church was intimately bound up with the lives of the people. Its lavish ceremonies were attractions, and people came from far and near to participate in them. Remember, there were no organized sports, no radio, no movies, no television. The church played the part of entertainer as well as guide and counsellor in religious matters. People gave to their churches with free hands, and worked to help make their church the most lovely one of all.

That they succeeded in this is attested by the fact that these many centuries later all the world marvels at their skill.

* * *

If you readers of ROBIN HOOD have any questions on the life and customs of the Middle Ages, why not write to the editor, and we will attempt to answer them in this space?

Robin Hood

A FOOL THERE WAS, AND **ODO** WAS HIS NAME. BUT ODO WAS ALSO A HUMAN BEING, WITH A VERY HUMAN DREAM... AND ODO, LIKE SO MANY OF US, TRIES TO MAKE HIS DREAM COME TRUE, BUT SUCCEEDS ONLY IN GIVING **ROBIN HOOD** A GLIMPSE INTO—

THE HEART OF A FOOL

I WILL SAVE YOU, ROBIN HOOD!

WHAT CAN A **FOOL** DO THAT ROBIN HOOD CANNOT?

LAUGHTER IS ALWAYS RINGING IN ODO'S EARS—HARD, CRUEL, MOCKING LAUGHTER! FOR ODO IS COURT JESTER TO **PRINCE JOHN** OF ENGLAND—

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

SOMETIMES HE STUFFS BITS OF COTTON IN HIS EARS AS HE ENTERTAINS...

IF I HEAR THEM LAUGH ONCE MORE, I'LL GO MAD!

WHEN THE LAST GUEST HAS CREPT OFF TO BED, STILL CHUCKLING, ODO HIDES HIMSELF IN HIS LITTLE ROOM. HERE HE KEEPS A SWORD, WELL HIDDEN...
SOMEDAY I WILL BE A GREAT KNIGHT. A FIGHTING MAN! THEN PEOPLE WILL NOT LAUGH AT ME!
WHAT'S THE SENSE OF FOOLING MYSELF? IT'S NO USE. THESE ARE ONLY THE WILD DREAMINGS OF A FOOL! (SOB)
ONE DAY, ODO THE JESTER FORGETS HIMSELF, AND INSULTS SEVERAL HIGH NOBLES OF THE REALM—
BETTER TO BE FOOL OF KINGS — THAN THE KING OF FOOLS!
LORD PRINCE, HE CALLED YOU A FOOL KING!
AYE, A KING OF FOOLS! HE INSULTS US ALL DAILY, DOES THIS ODO!
HE GOES TOO FAR. TO THE DUNGEON WITH HIM! TOMORROW, HE'LL LOSE HIS HEAD!
HARD IRON MANACLES ARE RIVETED ONTO ODO'S WRISTS... BUT DURING THE NIGHT—
WHO'S THERE?
SSSSH! MAKE NO SOUND!
HARALD, THE COOK!
AYE! ONE OF ROBIN HOOD'S MEN WHO FIGHT EVIL DURING THIS AWFUL REIGN OF PRINCE JOHN THE USURPER.
SEEK ROBIN HOOD IN SHERWOOD FOREST. HE KEEPS SANCTUARY THERE FOR ALL PERSECUTED MEN!

AND SO ODO THE JESTER COMES TO SHARE THE LIFE OF THE MERRY MEN. THEY ARE DELIGHTED WITH HIS WIT—

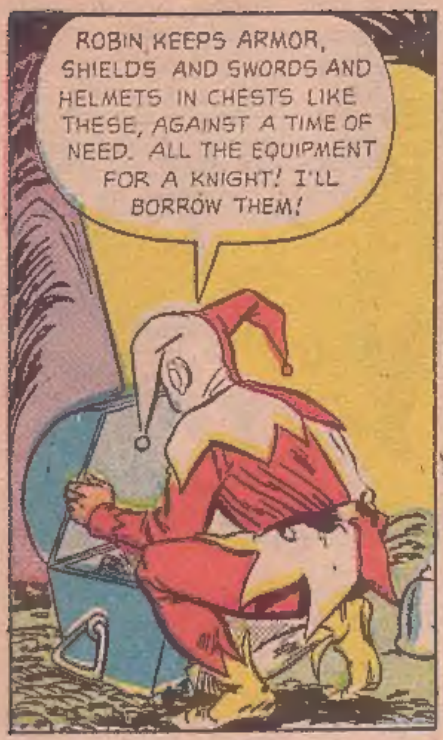
FOR SOME REASON, ODO DOES NOT MIND THE LAUGHTER OF THE MERRY MEN. THEY ARE COARSE AND CRUDE AT TIMES, BUT THEIR LAUGHTER IS ALWAYS HONEST!

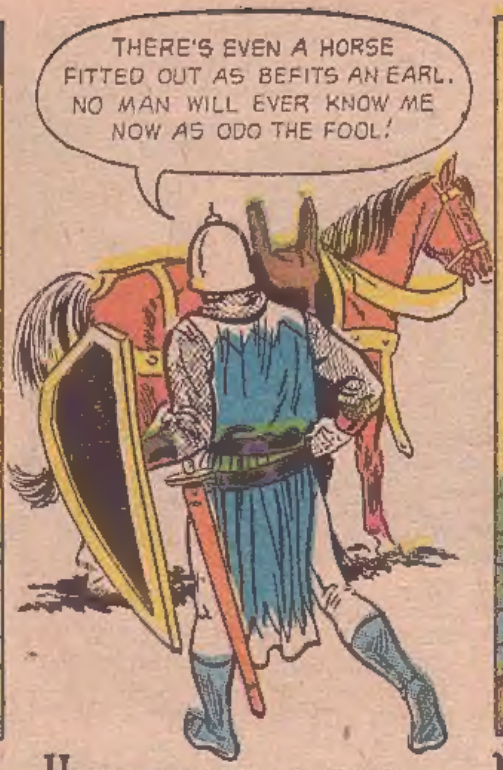
THERE WAS A FARMER WHO WENT TO LONDON TOWN. LATER, HIS FRIENDS ASKED HIM HOW HE LIKED THE WEATHER THERE.
AND HOW DID HE LIKE IT, ODO?

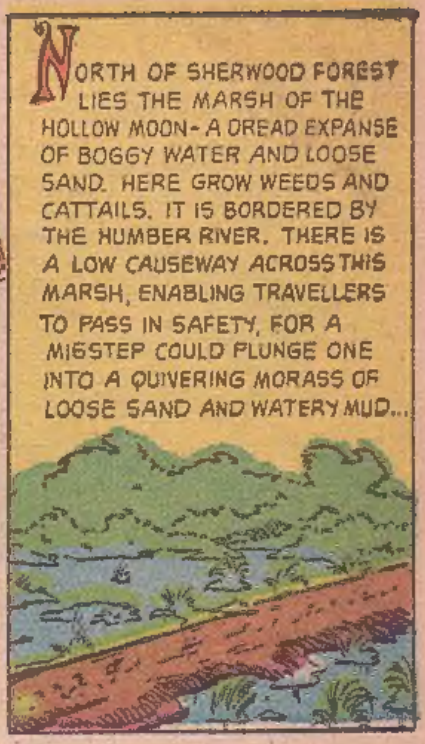
THEN ON A FINE APRIL MORNING, BAD NEWS ARRIVES IN THE CLEARING WHERE THE MERRY MEN DWELL...

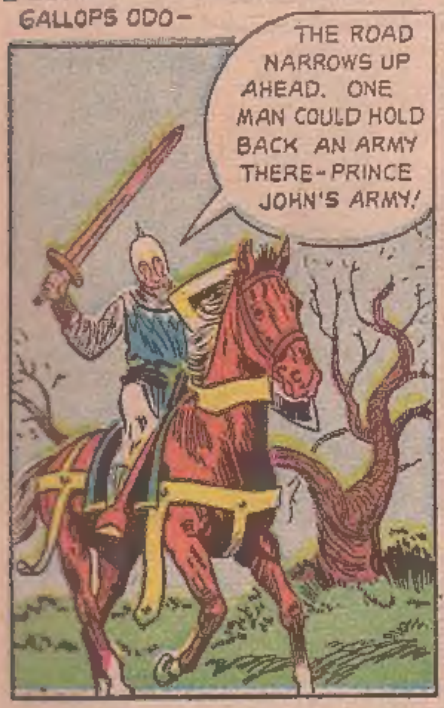
THERE IS NO PANIC. WELL-TRAINED MEN KNOW WHAT TO DO. ONE BY ONE, THEY MELT INTO THE FOREST...

ONLY ONE MAN REMAINS BEHIND— ODO, THE FOOL!


ROBIN KEEPS ARMOR, SHIELDS AND SWORDS AND HELMETS IN CHESTS LIKE THESE, AGAINST A TIME OF NEED. ALL THE EQUIPMENT FOR A KNIGHT! I'LL BORROW THEM!

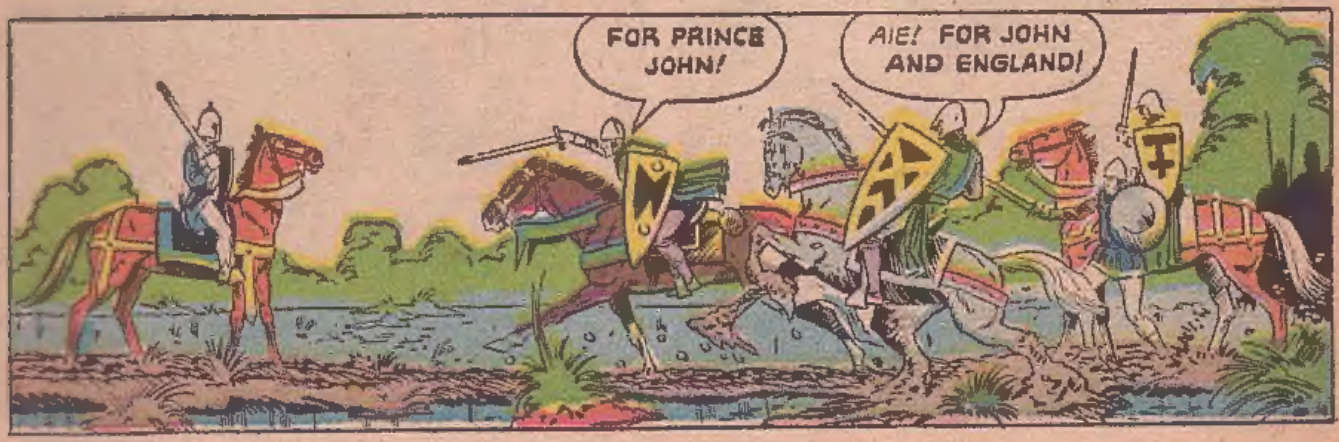

THERE'S EVEN A HORSE FITTED OUT AS BEFITS AN EARL. NO MAN WILL EVER KNOW ME NOW AS ODO THE FOOL!

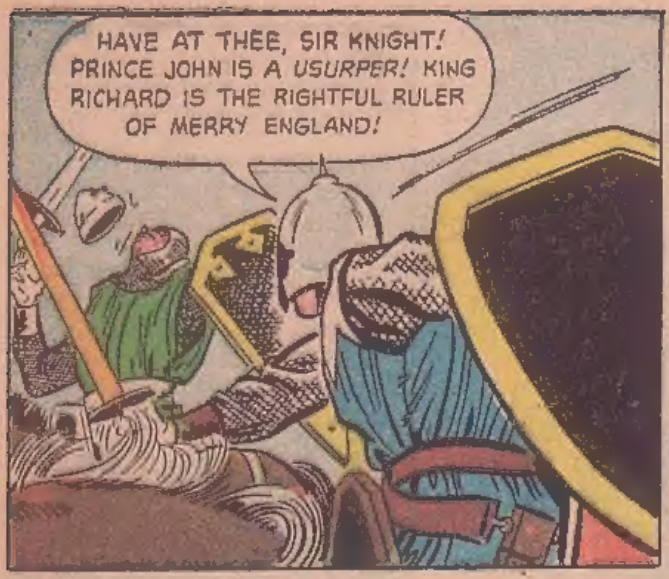

NORTH OF SHERWOOD FOREST LIES THE MARSH OF THE HOLLOW MOON- A DREAD EXPANSE OF BOGGY WATER AND LOOSE SAND. HERE GROW WEEDS AND CATTAILS. IT IS BORDERED BY THE HUMBER RIVER. THERE IS A LOW CAUSEWAY ACROSS THIS MARSH, ENABLING TRAVELLERS TO PASS IN SAFETY, FOR A MISSTEP COULD PLUNGE ONE INTO A QUIVERING MORASS OF LOOSE SAND AND WATERY MUD...

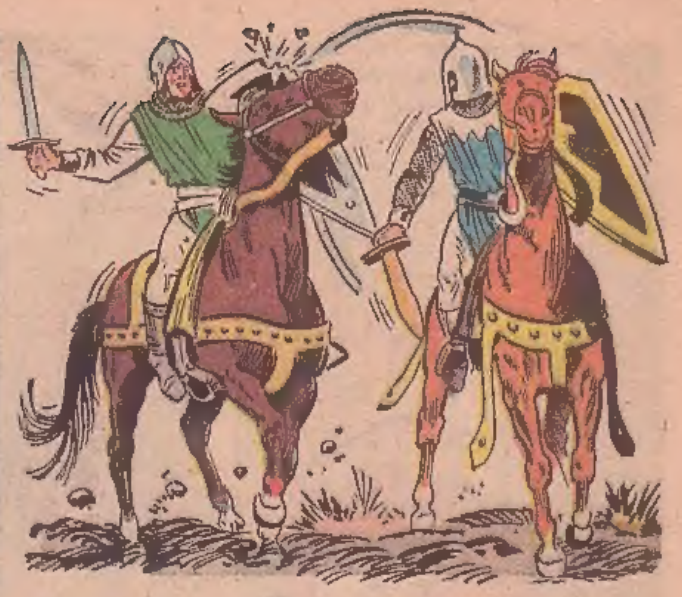

ALONG ITS EARTHERN CAUSEWAY, GALLOPS ODO-
THE ROAD NARROWS UP AHEAD. ONE MAN COULD HOLD BACK AN ARMY THERE- PRINCE JOHN'S ARMY!

HERE HE MAKES HIS STAND-
LET THEM COME. I'LL FIGHT AND DIE HERE, BUT I'LL GIVE ROBIN A CHANCE TO ESCAPE!

NOT KNOWING THAT HIS OWN JESTER STANDS ON THE CAUSEWAY, PRINCE JOHN THE USURPER RAPS OUT AN ORDER-
RID ME OF THAT KNIGHT, GOOD SIRES! THEN THE WAY TO CAPTURE ROBIN HOOD WILL LIE OPEN TO US.

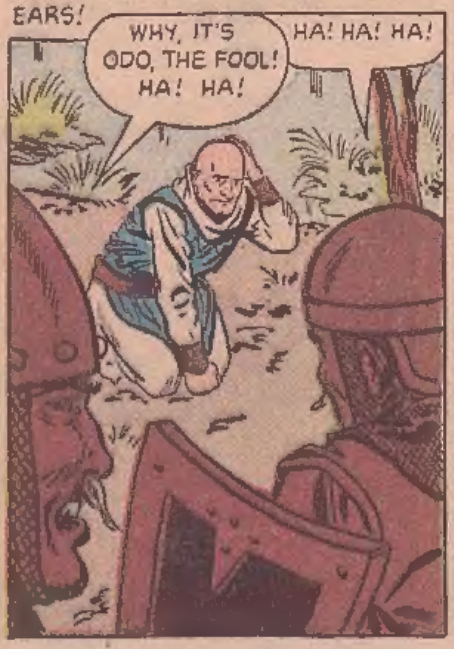

FOR PRINCE JOHN!
AIE! FOR JOHN AND ENGLAND!





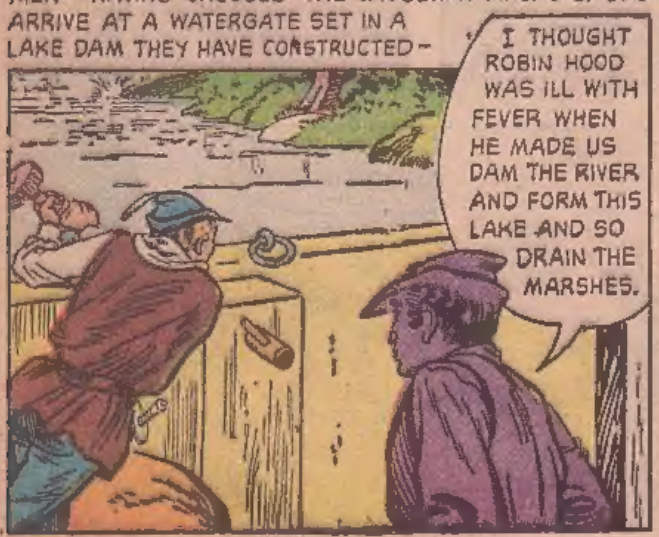
ODO SOON DISCOVERS THAT *WILLINGNESS* IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR BATTLE WISDOM. HE REELS BACK. HIS HELMET STRAPS SNAP..

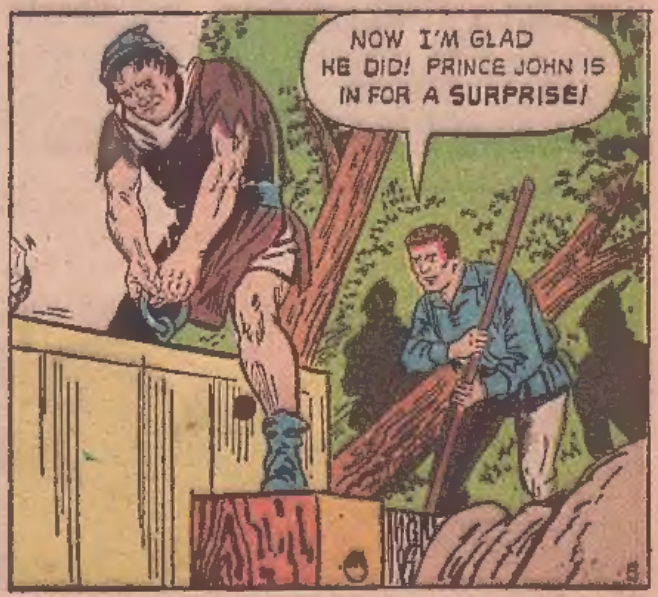
HE GOES DOWN. UNHELMED, HE IS RECOGNIZED. VICIOUS, MOCKING LAUGHTER RINGS ONCE AGAIN IN HIS EARS!



DRAGGED BEFORE THE USURPER, HE IS THRUST TO HIS KNEES...

SOME DISTANCE AWAY, ROBIN HOOD AND THE MERRY MEN — HAVING CROSSED THE CAUSEWAY AHEAD OF ODO — ARRIVE AT A WATERGATE SET IN A LAKE DAM THEY HAVE CONSTRUCTED —





AYE! BY DIVERTING A PART OF THE RIVER, AND BY KEEPING IT BACK FROM THE MARSHES, WE LOWERED THE WATER LEVEL SO MEN COULD BUILD THE CAUSEWAY. THE CAUSEWAY LETS US ESCAPE ANY WHO SEEKS TO TRAP US IN SHERWOOD FOREST!
NOT KNOWING THIS, PRINCE JOHN AND ALL HIS ARMY WILL BE ON THAT CAUSEWAY. WHEN THE RIVER WATERS HITS THEM, THEY'LL BE HELPLESS!
AND WE CAN DICTATE OUR TERMS OF SURRENDER!
AS THE FLOOD SWEEPS AND WHIRLS ABOUT THEIR LEGS, HIDING THE NARROW MARSH ROAD, PRINCE JOHN'S MEN PANIC!
I'M AFRAID TO MOVE LEST I FALL INTO THE MORASS AND SINK!
IN OUR HEAVY ARMOR, WE ARE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING! ONE FALSE STEP WILL DOOM US!
YIELD, PRINCE JOHN! YIELD AND MY MERRY MEN WILL LEAD YOU AND YOUR ARMY TO SAFETY!
NEVER! IF YOU DO NOT GIVE US SAFE PASSAGE— ODO DIES!
ODO! WHAT'S HE DOING IN ARMOR AND MAIL? ... WELL—WHAT ELSE CAN I DO? I CAN'T LET ANY HARM COME TO HIM!
SO THE EXCHANGE IS MADE—A PRINCE AND HIS ARMY FOR A LOWLY FOOL! THE HUMOR OF IT MAKES EVERYONE SMILE— FOR EVEN ODO, AT LONG LAST, IS CONTENT!
A MAN MUST BE WHAT HE CAN, ROBIN— NOT WHAT HE IMAGINES HIMSELF TO BE. I KNOW I'LL NEVER MAKE A FIGHTING MAN!
YOUR TALENT LIES IN AMUSING MEN, NOT IN FIGHTING THEM!
I KNOW THAT NOW! FROM THIS DAY ON, I AM YOUR JESTER. AT LAST—I HAVE FOUND HAPPINESS!
THE END